

County Borough of West Bromwich



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of
West Bromwich

FOR

1951



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CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES

at 31st December, 1951.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

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Deputy Chairman: Alderman A. GREEN

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor A. MEDLEY, J.P.)

Alderman Mrs. A. E. CALDWELL	Councillor J. W. HUBBARD
Alderman Mrs. E. M. CARPENTER	Councillor F. LEESON
Alderman G. E. POWELL	Councillor Mrs. D. MANIFOLD
Alderman Mrs. E. A. SMALLMAN, J.P.	Councillor Mrs. R. PARFITT
Councillor Mrs. M. EVITTS	Councillor Mrs. J. SCOTT
Councillor Miss C. E. HAZEL, O.B.E., J.P.	Councillor Mrs. V. M. STEED

Co-opted Members

DR. D. SAKLATVALA

DR. F. R. SMITH

MR. L. H. TIMMINS

MR. W. E. WIMBERGER, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. V. M. STEED

Deputy Chairman: Councillor Mrs. M. EVITTS

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor A. MEDLEY, J.P.)

Alderman Mrs. A. E. CALDWELL	Councillor Mrs. R. PARFITT
Alderman J. T. H. DAVIES, J.P.	Councillor Mrs. J. SCOTT
Alderman Mrs. E. A. SMALLMAN, J.P.	Dr. D. SAKLATVALA
Councillor Miss C. E. HAZEL, O.B.E., J.P.	

MENTAL HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. M. EVITTS

Deputy Chairman: Councillor J. W. HUBBARD

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor A. MEDLEY, J.P.)

Alderman J. T. H. DAVIES, J.P.	Councillor Mrs. J. SCOTT
Alderman Mrs. E. A. SMALLMAN, J.P.	Councillor Mrs. V. M. STEED
Councillor Miss C. E. HAZEL, O.B.E., J.P.	Dr. F. R. SMITH

HYGIENE AND CLEANSING COMMITTEE

Chairman: Alderman J. T. H. DAVIES, J.P.

Deputy Chairman: Alderman A. GREEN

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor A. MEDLEY, J.P.)

Alderman Mrs. A. E. CALDWELL	Councillor G. GRIFFITHS
Alderman Mrs. E. M. CARPENTER	Councillor Miss C. E. HAZEL, O.B.E., J.P.
Alderman Mrs. E. A. SMALLMAN, J.P.	Councillor Mrs. V. M. STEED

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	...	J. TUDOR LEWIS, M.D., D.P.H.
Senior Assistant Medical Officer of Health	... ..	CLIFFORD W. D. COLE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (to 30.4.51) W. J. MORRISSEY, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. (from 1.11.51)
Assistant Medical Officer of Health	... ..	W. J. MORRISSEY, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. (to 30.10.51) R. LINDOP, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H. (from 17.12.51)
Assistant Medical Officer of Health (part-time)	... ..	MARGARET A. SHIELDS, M.B., Ch.B.
Senior Dental Officer	... ..	G. J. S. LITTLEFIELD, L.D.S., (to 10.10.51)
Chief Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Food and Drugs, Superintendent of Refuse Removal and Disposal	... ..	W. W. FOAKES, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector, M.Inst.P.C.
Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector		G. H. SHAW, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector.
District Sanitary Inspectors	...	F. A. OAKES, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector. F. W. BALL, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector, Cert. Smoke Inspector. C. N. JOHNSON, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A. A. W. REEVES, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector.
Assistant Cleansing Superintendent	... ..	J. E. FLEETWOOD, A.M.Inst.P.C.
Superintendent Health Visitor	...	Miss K. PERRYER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert., Q.N. Cert. (to 13.4.51) Miss E. A. ROBERTS, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert. (from 11.6.51)

Health Visitors/School Nurses

MISS M. E. BLAKEY, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
 MISS M. E. GREASLEY, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
 MISS I. JOHN, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert., Q.N.Cert.
 MISS M. E. JONES, S.R.N., S.C.M.
 MISS E. KING, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.M.P.A.Cert., H.V.Cert.
 MRS. C. PASKIN, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
 MISS F. REED, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
 MISS J. DEAN, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.

Pupil Health Visitors MISS E. M. BROSMAN, S.R.N., S.C.M.
 (from 3.9.51)
 MISS D. DANKS, S.R.N., S.C.M. (from
 3.9.51)
 MISS M. M. T. MANNING, S.R.N.,
 S.C.M. (from 3.9.51)

Tuberculosis Visitor MISS G. S. GEDRYCH, S.R.N., S.C.M.,
 S.R.F.N. (part-time)

Municipal Midwives MRS. J. BILLINGHAM, S.R.N., S.C.M.
 MRS. E. DODSON, S.C.M.
 MRS. A. DORAM, S.C.M.
 MISS F. FORGHAM, S.R.N., S.C.M.
 MISS D. E. HICKMAN, S.R.N., S.C.M.
 MRS. C. LESTER, S.R.N., S.C.M.
 MISS E. NUNN, S.R.N., S.C.M.
 MRS. J. PICKSTONE, S.C.M.
 MISS M. PIERCY, S.C.M.

Mental Health Officer MISS E. M. APLIN, Social Study Dip-
 loma (B'ham.), (to 11.11.51)

Duly Authorised Officer C. F. WHITEMAN

Superintendent, Akkrill Nursing Association MISS M. KEY, S.R.N., S.C.M.
 (to 10.10.51)

Matron, Highfields Day Nursery MRS. E. HEAVEN, S.R.N., S.C.M., D.N.

Administrative Assistant ... A. SHAW

Home Help Organiser ... MRS. J. M. DAY

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
County Borough of West Bromwich.*

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report on the health of West Bromwich for 1951.

As I did not take up my duties in succession to Dr. J. Tudor Lewis until after the end of the year under review, this report deals with a period of which I have cognizance—as far as the health of West Bromwich is concerned—only from records. Consequently the non-statistical portion, or commentary on the year's figures, will be found to be shorter than usual, for I have considered it best to leave the report as factual as possible, my acquaintance with present-day West Bromwich being only of a few months' standing. That is not to say that I am altogether a stranger to the Borough, having had the privilege of serving as an Assistant Medical Officer of Health in the Health Department a decade past.

It is interesting to make a comparison between some of the figures for the year under review and those of the time when I was here before. Comparing the statistics of 1951 with those of 1941, one observes that certain features show a striking improvement, others an almost equally striking sameness. For example, the birth rate in these years appears to have turned full circle. In 1951, 17.5 births took place per 1,000 population; in 1941, 17.13. But in the intervening period the birth rate has been consistently several points higher, the average being 19.5 and the highest rate achieved 21.83, which occurred in 1944.

The infant death rate in 1951 was less than half that of ten years before, the respective figures being 29.5 and 68.3 deaths of infants per 1,000 births. As will be seen from the table which appears on a later page, there has been a steady decline in infant mortality over the years, and in the last two the loss of infant life has been encouragingly low. My predecessor commented on this trend in the Annual Report for 1950. The factors he mentions as contributing to this decline, namely the work of the health visitors, improved paediatric services, better housing, and an increase in the number of doctors practising in the town, are significant ones, and no doubt continue to exert their beneficial effect. It has been pointed out by some, having regard to the close connection between the state of maternal nutrition and survival in early infancy, that the decline in the infant death rate has coincided with a period in which there has been a general improvement in the living standards of the population as a whole. What is the relative importance of these economic factors can, perhaps, only be judged when the present era is viewed at some future date in historical perspective. Meanwhile those of us

who are responsible for preserving the health of the community must persevere in combating all material influences that threaten the lives of these infants.

The problem of pulmonary tuberculosis is dealt with at some length by Dr. Clifford Cole in the pages that follow. I would draw your attention particularly to this important section. The number of notifications of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis was much the same in 1951 as in 1941, but the death rate from this disease last year, it is encouraging to observe, was half the figure of 10 years previously.

As far as other infectious diseases are concerned, it is noted that in 1941 there were 140 cases of diphtheria as against 3 in 1951. This demonstrates once more the effectiveness of the campaign against diphtheria. But here a word of warning is necessary. We are now in the position of people who have built themselves a dyke to prevent the sea overrunning the land. There is a danger of our sitting back complacently. But we must not lose sight of the fact that the sea is an ever present menace outside, and only awaits an opportunity to break in. Some 72% of children in the Borough under 15 years of age have now been immunised. This means that 72 in every 100 have been protected against diphtheria, but it also means that 28 in every 100 of the whole population under 15 are potential victims. This represents a formidable gap in the dyke and we cannot be secure until it has been filled.

The wartime abbreviated form of the 1941 Annual Report precludes further comparisons. A few observations on the work of the Health Department in 1951 remain to be made.

The dental service for expectant and nursing mothers and children under five was carried out with difficulty during the year, owing to lack of staff, though there are signs that the problem of finding adequate personnel has passed its lowest point and that the situation is beginning to improve. The Senior Dental Officer, Mr. G. J. S. Littlefield, resigned in October, 1951, and was subsequently replaced by Mr. D. Halley Goose.

A certain amount of reorganisation took place in the Health Department towards the end of 1951, following the designation of the Medical Officer of Health as Chief Welfare Officer. The additional work occasioned by the welfare service arrangements has been integrated with that of the Health Department.

The Nursing Services were more closely co-ordinated during the year by the appointment of a Chief Nursing Officer, Miss E. A. Roberts, who succeeded Miss K. Perryer, the Superintendent Health Visitor, and Miss M. Key, Superintendent of the late Akrill Nursing Association, combining the respective duties of them both together with that of Supervisor of Midwives.

Another staff change which took place was the resignation of the Mental Health Officer, Miss E. M. Aplin, in November, 1951. The post was filled after the end of the period under review by Miss M. Oliver. The Mental Health Services have since been further augmented by the appointment of an Occupation Centre Supervisor, Mrs. C. E. M. Coe, an account of whose activities will, of course, be due in the Annual Report for 1952.

In the short time that has elapsed since I took up my duties it has been made amply clear to me how much co-operation the Medical Officer of Health and his staff receive not only from members of the Council and other Corporation Departments, but also from a multitude of outside bodies not concerned directly or more remotely with the health of the Borough, and I would like to express the thanks of the department for the help received in 1951. To the staff of the Health Department themselves is due my very grateful acknowledgement for the way they have kept the work smoothly running between the departure of Dr. J. Tudor Lewis and my arrival, so that this rather difficult transition period has been negotiated without interruption of the Council's Health Services.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. M. FLEMING,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
2, Lodge Road,
West Bromwich.

GENERAL STATISTICS

POPULATION (Registrar General's Estimate mid-1951)	87,210
AREA (Acres)	7,172
NO. OF INHABITED HOUSES (according to rate books— 31st December, 1951)	24,645
RATEABLE VALUE	£445,459
PRODUCT OF 1d. RATE (at 31st December, 1951)	£1,793
GENERAL RATE (1951-52)	19s.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ...	747	732	1,479
Illegitimate ...	18	29	47
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	765	761	1,526
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth Rate per 1,000 population = 17·5.

Still-Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ...	21	16	37
Illegitimate ...	1	—	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	22	16	38
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Rate per 1,000 population = 0·44.

Rate per 1,000 live and still-births = 24·3.

Deaths	1,049	Death Rate	12.0
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Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth	1
Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	0.64

Deaths of Infants under one year of age

All Infants	45	Rate per 1,000 live births	...	29.5
Legitimate	44	Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	... ..	29.7
Illegitimate	1	Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	... ..	21.3

Population

The population figure as supplied by the Registrar General for West Bromwich in 1951 was 87,210, which was a decrease of 700 compared with the previous year. The census figure taken in 1951,

which is likely to be much more accurate, was 87,985. In view of the continued steady influx of outside labour into this industrial area, this apparent reduction can only be regarded as a statistical paradox.

Births

The number of live births in West Bromwich in 1951 was 1,526, the corresponding figure for the previous year being 1,567. This gave a birth rate for 1951 of 17.5 per 1,000 population, which compared with 15.5 for England and Wales and 17.3 for the great towns.

Deaths

The total number of deaths in 1951 was 1,049 compared with 952 in 1950. This gave a death rate of 12.0 for 1951, compared with 10.8 for 1950. The corresponding figures for England and Wales and for the great towns were 12.5 and 13.4 respectively.

DEATHS DURING THE LAST 10 YEARS

Principal Causes of Death

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	Yearly Average
Cancer ...	121	124	132	173	138	145	127	151	154	165	143
Heart Diseases ...	170	148	138	143	161	208	184	198	256	275	188
Pneumonia ...	48	85	56	39	40	66	41	49	46	43	51
Bronchitis and other Respiratory Diseases ...	54	74	88	95	90	115	81	113	69	96	88
Vascular lesions ...	91	79	77	105	99	98	73	112	113	103	91
Tuberculosis:											
Pulmonary ...	65	64	54	54	57	59	63	66	50	39	57
Non-Pulmonary	11	7	11	8	9	10	10	10	3	6	9

Age at Death

The proportion of deaths which occurred in persons 65 years of age and over was 59.3% compared with 57.6% in 1950.

Deaths from Violent Causes

There were 52 deaths from violent causes, 19 from suicide, 8 as a result of road accidents and 25 others.

Infant Mortality

In 1951, 45 infants under the age of one year lost their lives as compared with 47 the previous year. This gave an infant mortality rate of 29.5 per 1,000 live births compared with 30 in 1950. The corresponding rates for England and Wales and the great towns were 29.6 and 33.9 respectively.

INFANT DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS FOR 10 YEARS

1942 — 1951

Year	Under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total	Infant Death Rate
1942	37	12	11	8	4	72	46
1943	38	15	24	8	7	92	55
1944	60	20	29	4	4	117	67
1945	34	13	20	8	5	80	52
1946	38	15	17	10	6	86	50
1947	37	17	20	16	6	96	55
1948	38	18	23	8	2	89	53
1949	31	19	24	6	3	83	49
1950	22	9	6	7	3	47	30
1951	23	7	9	3	3	45	30
10 years' average	36	15	18	8	4	81	—

INFANT DEATHS, 1951 — CAUSES OF DEATH

	Under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	10	—	—	—	—	10
Pneumonia	2	3	2	3	1	11
Congenital Malformations	3	—	—	—	1	4
Diarrhoea	—	1	2	—	—	3
Accidents	—	1	2	—	—	3
Influenza	—	1	—	—	—	1
Other Defined Diseases	8	1	3	—	1	13
Totals	23	7	9	3	3	45

Of these children, 44 were legitimate and 1 illegitimate.

NEO-NATAL DEATHS IN 1951

WHEN DEATH OCCURRED										Deaths
1st day	2nd day	3rd day	4th day	5th day	6th day	7th day	1—2 wks.	2—3 wks.	3—4 wks.	under 1 month
13	1	3	1	—	1	—	3	1	—	23

Of these children, one was illegitimate.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious Disease — Incidence

	1950	1951
Measles	142	1,796
Whooping Cough	256	241
Scarlet Fever	93	51
Erysipelas	7	1
Meningococcal infection ...	1	5
Poliomyelitis (paralytic) ...	12	2
Poliomyelitis (non-paralytic)	3	—
Dysentery	—	19
Chicken Pox	—	4
Diphtheria	—	3
Paratyphoid Fever	—	2
Totals	514	2,124

Immunisation against Diphtheria

Vaccination against Smallpox

Below are given the numbers of children immunised against diphtheria and vaccinated against smallpox. These represent all age groups and those in which treatment was given by doctors in the public health department and also by general practitioners.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

Number of children immunised	894
Number of children receiving re-inforcing injections	126

It is estimated that the proportion of children under 15 in West Bromwich immunised against diphtheria is now 72.2%.

Vaccination against Smallpox

Number of persons vaccinated ...	377
Number of persons re-vaccinated ...	163

Venereal Diseases

Details of the returns of cases of venereal disease from West Bromwich treated at the General Hospital, Birmingham, and the Guest Hospital, Dudley, are given below.

				Birmingham	Dudley	Total
Syphilis	...	...	...	10	1	11
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	14	4	18
Conditions other than venereal	...	...	...	52	9	61
Total cases	...	...	...	76	14	90

It will be noted that there was again a slight decrease in the number of cases of venereal disease but, as pointed out in the last year's report, it is doubtful whether these figures can be taken as being accurate.

Food Poisoning

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

On the 1st May, 1951, the Chest Clinic removed from its premises at 2, Lodge Road, into a new clinic specially built and designed for it in the grounds of Heath Lane Hospital. Dr. Clifford Cole, the Physician in Charge, became engaged solely in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of chest diseases. The clerical staff were taken over by the Hospital Management Committee and a full-time Sister-in-Charge of the Clinic was appointed. In addition a Tuberculosis Health Visitor, who worked part-time, joined the service.

I am indebted to Dr. Cole for the following note.

The year of 1951 has at long last seen a radical change in the Anti-Tuberculosis Service in the County Borough of West Bromwich, and it is easier to form a picture of what the complete whole might look like. At present there are still many gaps in the picture, but these are rapidly being sketched in, and I think we can say that on the whole the picture should prove a pleasant one from the point of view of the patient himself, who is, after all, the most important person, the staff of the Chest Clinic and its ancillary services, the Health Department of the County Borough of West Bromwich, and finally the citizens of West Bromwich.

The picture now emerges of an out-patient department dealing solely with chest diseases and tuberculosis in any of its many forms, situated in the grounds of a hospital devoted solely to the in-patient treatment of patients with pulmonary tuberculosis. This out-patient department, which it is hoped will soon have its own X-ray department running, has its own trained personnel, some employed by the Regional Hospital Board and others by the local health authority.

The departure from the old system has resulted in many patients receiving treatment and medicines as out-patients and the new set-up has resulted in considerable saving of hospital beds, with a consequent benefit to the more urgent cases awaiting admission. The new building has proved a great success and the waiting time for out-patients has been cut down by approximately half and the surroundings in which they wait are considerably more pleasant. The introduction of an appointment system has been on the whole a success, particularly as it has been maintained on a very elastic basis.

Tuberculosis itself has continued to show the same characteristics as in the previous years. During 1951 more cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified than in 1950, but it is felt that this is due to better case finding rather than an increase in the incidence of the disease. The number of cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified was the lowest ever and comment will be made later in this report on these figures. In 1951 only 45 persons died of tuberculosis and 6 of these were non-pulmonary cases. This was a reduction of 20% on the figures for the previous year and the figures are the lowest recorded in the Borough. The number of cases on the Notification Register fell by 61, although the new cases notified rose by 12, and the total number of cases on the Chest Clinic Register rose by 164. The total number of attendances and consultations rose by the remarkable figure of 1,669. The number of home visits made by the Clinic Nurse rose to 980 from 311, and is still rising rapidly.

The number of refills given during the year was 2,641, being an increase of 818 over the previous year and probably reflects accurately the increase in the number of early treatable cases referred to this Clinic.

To look at the figures in more detail, the rise of 12 in the notifications for the year was not unexpected, and I think we may yet see a small further rise. In the late 1930's and the early 1940's, almost half of the notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis came from the out-patient departments and wards of the various general hospitals in the neighbourhood, but in 1951 only 26 out of 150 came from this source, and some of these notifications came from mental hospitals in respect of inmates suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and chronic mental disease who had not lived at home for years. It would appear, therefore, that the general practitioners are referring their patients to the various specialised departments and hospitals with greater discrimination. The low total of 45 deaths is most gratifying; this, I feel, is due to the fact that patients are being picked up more quickly by their general practitioners and are referred to this department with a much better chance of having curative rather than palliative treatment given them. In connection with these 45 deaths, I think it is only fair to point out that 14 patients died within three months of notification and were unable to have the benefit of modern anti-tuberculosis therapy.

The small number of non-pulmonary cases notified, to wit 6, and the number of non-pulmonary deaths, also 6, must be due largely to the unremitting efforts of the Health Department, and particularly the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his colleagues, in seeing that the milk supply in the town maintains a high standard of purity and complies with the anti-tuberculosis regulations. I hope soon to see the day when we may be able to eradicate this source of notification. Here I feel I might interpose a word to suggest that it might be worth while to culture in a guinea pig a sample of melted ice cream for tubercle bacilli, such a sample to be taken at the end of a day's serving.

It will be seen that the attendances at the Chest Clinic have increased by more than 16%.

Once again it is interesting to speculate on the tuberculosis position as it now exists and as it may exist in the near future. In spite of the fact that the deaths continue to decline rapidly, there is no place for unthinking optimism. Cases are still occurring which though seen early go downhill in spite of every form of modern therapy. Probably the cause of the decline in the death rate is to be found in a combination of four factors.

- (1) The fact that West Bromwich has a sanatorium in the town where cases are admitted quickly and where they are treated efficiently.
- (2) The more frequent combination of adequate collapse therapy and the new triad of drugs, Streptomycin, Para-Aminosalicylic Acid (P.A.S.) and the Sulphatrones. This combined therapy has led to a new outlook for the rapidly spreading exudative type of pulmonary tuberculosis usually fatal in the past.
- (3) The re-housing of tuberculous persons by the Housing Committee in the Borough.
- (4) The fact that the County Borough of West Bromwich has practically full employment and a high average wage.

There is yet a fresh group of drugs in the Hydrazide group coming along, but it is too early to say what use they will be.

The after-care of tuberculous patients has remained the responsibility of the Local Health Authority. It is good to see that a part-time tuberculosis health visitor has been employed regularly for some months of the year and that a new full-time tuberculosis health visitor has been appointed. This should do much to assist in preventing fresh cases occurring in the households where there is already a known case. It is a tragedy to see such cases occurring, particularly when in many instances it is the result of lack of knowledge and not lack of love. It is in such homes that the work of the tuberculosis

health visitor proves most fruitful and I must deplore the fact that there is an establishment for only one tuberculosis health visitor to deal with the prevention and after-care of a disease which is the greatest killer and causes most loss of working hours amongst the young adult population. It is extraordinary indeed to think that this establishment has remained unchanged since before the war, and I am of the opinion that at least two-full time tuberculosis health visitors are required for this work in an industrial area of this size. If this vital branch of preventative medicine is subjected to cheese-paring economies, then the ultimate expenditure in hard cash alone will be tenfold and can only lead to further rises in the cases occurring in the already infected households. I would plead that the most urgent work confronting the Health Committee in connection with pulmonary tuberculosis is to increase the establishment of tuberculosis visitors to two full-time visitors and to implement that establishment immediately.

The After-Care Committee have once again been a very great help and I must place on record the assistance that this Committee has given to those patients whose needs are not covered by the Ministry of National Insurance or National Assistance Board. With the Committee's name I should like to couple the name of their Secretary, Mr. Keith Jones, who is a friend in need indeed. Others I must mention are the Galatea Fund, the W.V.S., and the Soroptimists' Club, all of whom have given assistance to patients by way of after-care in various degrees. The staff of the National Assistance Board Area Office at Smethwick have been most helpful and have taken a very understanding and broadminded view of the needs of the tuberculous patients, and I think it may fairly be said that no patient in the past year suffered a financial calamity.

Conclusion

With the removal of the Chest Clinic from the purlieus of the Health Department to its new building at Heath Lane, one has been beset by the fear of loss of contact between the Health Department and the Chest Clinic, but I am happy to say that this has not proved to be the case and the members of the Chest Clinic staff are all made most welcome at the Health Department and vice versa. I am sure that there has been no case in which lack of co-operation has occurred. I feel that the fact that all the members of the Chest Clinic are old members of the Health Department has helped materially, and it will be a sorry day indeed for West Bromwich when the members of either department cannot pay both social and duty calls on its fellow.

The era of Streptomycin and P.A.S. in combination, is now with us, and they have proved a most potent single weapon in the fight against tuberculosis. But a cloud has appeared on the horizon which may yet outweigh the advantage of the drugs. I refer to the greatly

increasing frequency of television viewing. This pastime, I feel, may well be one of the greatest single menaces of the health of an urban community. People gather in a confined space and sit close on top of each other to view the antics occurring in front of them on the screen. They shut the windows and pull the curtains. If one of them happens to be feeling off colour he stays home from work and gets out of bed in the evening in time to see the television programme. They further invite neighbours and close friends of the family to share the viewing and their germs. Very many patients of this Clinic are the proud possessors of television sets and I fear that this instrument may prove to be one of the most potent spreaders of pulmonary tuberculosis, by reason of the conditions under which it is operated. Obviously the risk is not only confined to tuberculosis, it involves all other types of droplet infection, not to mention the fact that it encourages physical idleness and takes young people out of the fresh air where they should properly be after a day's work in a factory, foundry or office.

Once again I repeat that all the most wonderful cures in the world are but secondary weapons in the fight against pulmonary tuberculosis—it is the prevention that is most important. Here, there is great scope for the working hand in hand of the health visitors, the general practitioners and the Chest Clinic. May this continue on an ever increasing scale.

B.C.G. Vaccination has been carried out in the town on a large scale, both by the Chest Clinic and by Dr. Hughes of the Medical Research Council trial. 281 children have been converted by this procedure from mantoux negative to mantoux positive. Time only will tell us the value of this procedure but if experience abroad is of any value, then the work has been well worth doing.

Rate of Incidence of Tuberculosis (Primary Notifications)

Year	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total	Rate per Thousand		
				Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total
1941	118	18	136	1.3	0.15	1.45
1942	139	14	153	1.77	0.18	1.95
1943	156	18	174	1.99	0.23	2.22
1944	160	11	171	2.04	0.14	2.18
1945	154	13	167	1.91	0.16	2.07
1946	150	11	161	1.81	0.13	1.94
1947	111	9	120	1.32	0.11	1.43
1948	149	21	170	1.73	0.24	1.97
1949	190	13	203	2.19	0.15	2.34
1950	122	16	138	1.39	0.18	1.57
1951	144	6	150	1.65	0.07	1.72

Comparative Table of Deaths and Death Rate

	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total	Rate per Thousand		
				Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total
1942	65	11	76	0.81	0.14	0.95
1943	64	7	71	0.80	0.09	0.89
1944	54	11	65	0.69	0.14	0.83
1945	54	8	62	0.68	0.10	0.78
1946	57	9	66	0.69	0.11	0.80
1947	59	10	69	0.70	0.12	0.82
1948	63	10	73	0.73	0.12	0.85
1949	66	10	76	0.76	0.12	0.88
1950	50	3	53	0.57	0.03	0.60
1951	39	6	45	0.45	0.07	0.52

Work of the Chest Clinic

The number of cases on the Chest Clinic and Notification Registers during the past ten years are given in the following table.

Year	New Cases	No. on Notif'n Register	No. on C. Clinic Register	No. of Exams.	No. of Consultations	Total	Home visits by T.B. Nurses
1942	153	510	376	1,039	1,084	2,123	932
1943	174	517	461	1,233	1,710	2,943	862
1944	171	597	530	1,271	2,312	3,583	1,017
1945	167	655	697	1,590	2,433	4,023	1,657
1946	161	705	856	1,785	2,842	4,627	2,008
1947	120	716	838	1,669	2,270	3,939	2,053
1948	171	618	970	1,847	1,901	3,748	2,647
1949	203	860	1,234	3,323	2,245	5,568	2,118
1950	138	902	1,497	3,537	2,140	5,677	311
1951	150	841	1,661	5,262	2,084	7,346	980

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

During 1951, as mentioned in the introductory letter, there was some re-organisation of the administrative arrangements for maternity and child welfare. On the retirement of the Superintendent of the Akrill Nursing Association, the staff of district nurses was absorbed into the health department, and the Superintendent Health Visitor was redesignated Chief Nursing Officer, now having charge of the health visitors, municipal midwives and district nurses. This has resulted in a closer integration of the local authority's nursing services and enhanced the smooth working of domiciliary care.

Care of Mothers and Young Children

The Infant Welfare Clinics were again well attended. These are seven in number and between them held 40 sessions a month. 20,246 attendances were made by children under 1 year of age, and 5,680 by children over 1 year.

At six of the Welfare Clinics, Ante-Natal Clinics were also held. The attendances were maintained at approximately the same level as in the previous year.

Ultra Violet Light Clinic

During the year 135 children attended for artificial sunlight, making a total of 1,276 attendances.

Premature Babies

The existing arrangements have continued for the care of premature babies.

During the year 121 premature births were notified, 44 being born at home and 77 in hospitals. All of those born and nursed entirely at home were surviving at the end of a month. Of the hospital cases, 3 died during the first 24 hours and 68 survived at the end of a month.

Illegitimate Children

Our arrangements with the Lichfield Diocesan Moral Welfare Association continued and we again received considerable help from

Miss Lavender, the Moral Welfare Worker, who reported as follows on the year's work :—

During the year 32 new cases were investigated and advice and help given as far as possible. Of this number 26 were expectant mothers, 4 mother and baby cases, and 2 preventive cases.

Four cases were referred to other organisations for further help.

Ten expectant mothers have received care in our Homes.

Four expectant mothers cancelled vacancies procured for them and made their own arrangements.

Four babies were placed from our Homes for adoption in other areas.

Three adoptions have been legalised.

Three mothers are receiving payments from putative fathers by private agreement. In one case a Court Affiliation Order was made, and one mother married the putative father.

Eight mothers are keeping their babies.

One expectant mother, at her request, was placed in a suitable resident post for 4 months pending admission to our Home.

The period of residence of cases in Mother and Baby Homes for the year totalled 167 weeks.

Highfields Day Nursery

Following on the improvements made at the Day Nursery approval was granted for its recognition for training purposes. As a result of this, staff were more easily recruited, the attendance was raised, and the nursery was working to capacity at the end of the year as will be shown by the figures given below :—

	Under 2 years	2—5 years
Total attendances for the year ...	3,668	7,036
Average attendances per day ...	15	28

Credit is due to the Matron and staff for the excellent care of the children.

Nursing Homes

During the year one nursing home closed down so that there are now only three in operation.

The medical and nursing staff of the Health Department carried out routine visits throughout the year and were invariably received in a co-operative manner.

Midwifery

The nine domiciliary midwives employed by the Health Department attended a total of 689 cases during 1951, 621 as midwives and 68 as maternity nurses, of which 275 cases received gas and air analgesia. In addition, pethidine was administered in 42 other cases.

HOME NURSING, CARE AND SERVICE

The work of the Home Nursing Service was carried out from the Akrill District Nurses Home until the 10th October, 1951, when the Home was closed. The administration of the Home Nursing Service was then transferred to the Health Department, and has continued to operate efficiently.

The work has increased steadily each month and it has been necessary to appoint extra staff. A keen interest is shown by the nurses with regard to the welfare of the patients but it is unfortunately often apparent that patients delay seeking nursing aid through diffidence or mistaken helpfulness. This frequently causes unnecessary discomfort and anxiety for the patient.

The amount and variety of equipment available for nursing patients in the home has been considerably increased and the medical loan equipment service is widely used and appears to be much appreciated by patients and their relatives.

The following is a classified list of patients visited during 1951 :—

Asthma	...	...	...	...	...	1
Breast Abscess	...	...	...	...	...	1
Burns	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cardiac	...	...	...	...	...	32
Carcinoma	...	...	...	...	...	25
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	30
Diabetic	...	...	...	...	...	58
Disseminated Sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	19
Enema	...	...	...	...	...	64
Fracture	...	...	...	...	...	10
Gangrene	...	...	...	...	...	5
General Care	...	...	...	...	...	35
Hemiplegia	...	...	...	...	...	18
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	23
Post-operative Cases	...	...	...	...	...	42
Parkinson's Disease	...	...	...	...	...	12
Psoriasis	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rheumatoid Arthritis	...	...	...	...	...	35
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	23
Specific Pharyngitis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Septic Conditions	...	...	...	...	...	8
Senility	...	...	...	...	...	27
Varicose Ulcers	...	...	...	...	...	18
Intra-Muscular Injections	...	...	...	...	...	42
						<hr/> 536 <hr/>

During the year the district nurses paid a total of 18,798 visits to 536 cases, of whom 148 died and 195 were discharged.

Home Help Scheme

The expansion of the Home Help Service has continued and much use has been made of this service.

The Home Help Service in conjunction with the Home Nursing Service is performing an invaluable function, and if it were not for these two services, which have expanded so much since 1948, the condition of many patients, particularly old people in their own homes, would be most serious. A large proportion of the patients dealt with under the Home Help Scheme are old and senile, and many undoubtedly ought to be in hospital if there were hospital beds available. On the other hand, many would prefer not to go into hospital and are more happy at home. This service is performing a vital social service in the community.

Ten whole-time and fourteen part-time home helps were in employment at the end of the year. Of the 225 individual households attended, some were for short-term and others for chronic trouble, 51 being maternity cases and 8 tuberculosis.

SUMMARY OF CASES

Type of case	Number of hours worked by the Home Helps during the year				
Chronic	20,684
Post-Natal	433
Pre-Natal	32
Confinement	3,263
Tuberculosis	1,028
Triplets	271
Convalescent	836
Emergency	582
Total ...					<hr/> 27,129 <hr/>

CONVALESCENT TREATMENT

Many persons recovering from illness continue to make use of the facilities arranged under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act for convalescent treatment, and the numbers increase annually. Thanks to co-operation with local medical practitioners only genuine cases are dealt with, and there is no doubt that the opportunity thus afforded these patients to have a recuperative holiday has greatly expedited their full recovery. In 1951, 87 cases went away to convalescent homes as far afield as Exmouth, Clevedon, Broadstairs, Llandudno, Charnwood Forest, Eastbourne, Ascot and Lancing.

Most of the cases went to Exmouth and Clevedon, however, as we have used these Homes since 1949 and have found them to be very satisfactory.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The ambulance service continued to function smoothly throughout the year and there is nothing new to report. Below are appended details of the work carried out during the year :—

Number of patients removed to hospitals :

(a) Within the Borough	...	...	...	...	1,708
(b) Outside the Borough	...	...	...	...	247

Number of patients removed from hospitals to other addresses :

(a) Within the Borough	...	...	...	...	887
(b) Outside the Borough	...	...	...	...	111

Number of out-patients taken for treatment at hospitals :

(a) Within the Borough	...	...	...	...	3,838
(b) Outside the Borough	...	...	...	...	1,170

Number of street and works accidents 570

Calls for gas and air apparatus 388

Transfers from hospital to hospital 242

Patients to and from nursing homes 40

Other journeys 264

Sitting car cases 105

Total Journeys	<u>9,570</u>
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Total Mileage	<u>65,405</u>
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MENTAL HEALTH

1. Administration

- (a) A Mental Health Sub-Committee has been appointed and the Medical Officer of Health, under the direction of this Committee, is responsible for the control of this service. Meetings are held one day each month.
- (b) The Mental Health Sub-Committee employs a full-time Mental Health Visitor, an Occupation Centre Supervisor, a Part-time Psychiatric Social Worker for after-care work amongst patients discharged from mental hospitals, a Duly Authorised Officer and a Deputy Duly Authorised Officer.
- (c) Co-ordination with Hospital Management Committees. Co-ordination has been maintained by representatives of the Health Committee being on the various Hospital Management Committees and, in addition, the Local Health Authority's officers supervise patients on trial or on licence from mental hospitals and institutions for mental patients, and furnish home condition and progress reports as required.
- (d) No duties have been delegated to Voluntary Associations.
- (e) No arrangements have been made for the training of mental health visitors.

2. Work undertaken in the community

- (a) The undermentioned work was carried out under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the procedure being as follows :—

On receipt of a discharge notice from the mental hospital, a confidential letter is written by the Medical Officer of Health, both to the patient's private doctor and the patient himself, enquiring whether any help can be rendered by the Health Department. In the absence of any statement that no help is desired, particulars are sent to the psychiatric social worker who then visits regularly and makes a report. Thereafter cases discharged are visited regularly and all steps taken to prevent the patients relapsing. A report on the work is made to the Mental Health Sub-Committee every two months when details of the action taken and results obtained are given. In these reports the patients are not referred to by name but remain anonymous.

Appended herewith is a report on the cases dealt with during 1951.

No. of cases brought forward from 1950	...	...	27
New cases during 1951	...	...	51
No. of cases closed during 1951	...	...	29
No. of cases carried forward to 1952	...	...	49

Distribution of ages				Distribution of sexes			
Under 20	...	...	7	Male	...	...	41
20 to 29	...	...	12	Female	...	...	37
30 to 39	...	...	17				
40 to 49	...	...	14				
50 to 59	...	...	13				
60 to 69	...	...	10				
70 and over	...	...	5				
Total			78				

The following may be noted as indicating the main types of service given :—

- (1) Support during the period of readjustment to normal life. This has been a very critical period in a number of cases.
- (2) Help in practical matters such as employment, national insurance, supplementary help from N.A.B., social contacts, home help.
- (3) Where further treatment has been desirable, encouraging patient to accept it and in some cases making the necessary arrangements.
- (4) Where patients dependent on care of relatives to encourage them to give proper care.
- (5) Where there is an emotional strain in the family some of the most important work is done in giving those concerned insight into the situation. Even where conscious understanding is not attained the worker may become a focal point for a new unity.

- (b) Under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890-1930, the duly authorised officer is responsible for advising and assisting relations and doctors in the matter of admitting cases to mental hospitals. Appended are details of the cases dealt with in the year ended December, 1951 :—

Admissions :

	Male	Female	Total
Certified	21	25	46
Temporary patients	—	1	1
Urgency orders ...	1	—	1
14 day orders ...	1	—	1
3 day orders ...	6	2	8
Voluntary ...	32	28	60
	—	—	—
Total ...	61	56	117
	—	—	—

Discharges :

	Male	Female	Total
Certified	13	20	33
	(7 died)	(7 died)	(14 died)
Urgency order ...	1	—	1
Voluntary patients	32	28	60
3 day order ...	1	—	1
14 day order ...	1	—	1
	—	—	—
Total ...	48	48	96
	—	—	—

- (c) Under the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938, duties are carried out by the Mental Health Officer.

- (i) Thirty new cases were referred from various sources during the year, as follows :

Referred by local Education Authority	13
Referred by Doctors	} 17
Referred by social workers, relatives and	
others	
	—
	30
	—

These cases were dealt with as follows :

Certified under the Mental Deficiency

Acts and admitted to hospitals	...	11
Placed under statutory supervision	...	15
Placed under voluntary supervision	...	4
		<hr/>
		30
		<hr/>

The total number of mental defectives on the register at 31st December, 1951 was 408 :

Under statutory supervision	...	...	158
Under voluntary supervision	...	...	42
In hospitals	...	...	208
			<hr/>
			408
			<hr/>

(ii) Supervision.

Twenty-one cases were added to the register during the year.

Total number of defectives over 16 years of age	...	...	...	...	169
Total number of defectives under 16 year of age	...	...	...	...	49
					<hr/>
					218
					<hr/>

Defectives over 16 years of age in gainful employment	...	...	...	...	116
Defectives over 16 years of age in receipt of allowances from the N.A.B.	...				53
Defectives over 16 years of age maintained by parents	...	...	...	...	3
					<hr/>
					172
					<hr/>

The general behaviour of defectives under supervision was satisfactory.

(iii) Training.

Six West Bromwich mental defectives attended Occupation Centres at Tipton, Walsall and Birmingham respectively. There were 36 trainable defectives under 16 years of age for whom no facilities were available.

As mentioned earlier, since the end of the period under review Mrs. C. E. M. Coe has been appointed as Occupation Centre Supervisor and is conducting small classes in temporary accommodation at the Friar Park Community Centre and Trinity Road Social Centre, in addition to assisting individual cases in their homes.

(iv) Institution Cases.

St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr, continued to admit the majority of West Bromwich patients needing institutional care, but a few cases had to be accommodated in other hospitals and at the end of the year there were 208 West Bromwich patients in various hospitals.

SUPERANNUATION MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

The undermentioned superannuation medical examinations were carried out during the year by the medical staff:

Number of examinations ...	...	...	92
Accepted ...	...	...	88
Deferred for re-examination ...	...	...	3
Rejected ...	...	...	1

REPORT OF SENIOR DENTAL OFFICER

D. H. GOOSE, B.Sc. B.D.S.

I have pleasure in presenting this report for 1951. Since I was not present during this time I cannot make any detailed remarks but merely examine the trend of the work.

During 1951, 58 sessions were devoted to the inspection and treatment of expectant and nursing mothers and to children under five; 55 mothers and 219 children being examined.

The attendance of mothers was less than in 1950, and the number of dentures made, very much less. This is somewhat surprising as there was a charge imposed for the provision of dentures under the National Health Scheme in June and since we still provide dentures free one would have thought that the number seeking this type of treatment at the clinic would have increased.

Mr. A. H. Bosworth has been helping us by performing the necessary extraction of teeth for mothers at the Hallam Hospital, and I would like to thank him and the medical and nursing staff there for their kind help and co-operation.

219 children under five were examined and 208 required treatment which included 423 extractions, much the same position as in 1950.

Finally, may I express my thanks to the medical, nursing and clerical staffs of the Public Health and School Health Departments for their assistance during the year.

Appended are details of the dental service provided under Section 22 of the National Health Service Act, 1946:—

(a) Numbers provided with dental care:

	<i>Examined</i>	<i>Needing treatment</i>	<i>Treated</i>	<i>Made dentally fit</i>
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	55	55	76	45
Children under five ...	219	208	220	217

(b) Forms of dental treatment provided :

	<i>Extractions</i>	<i>Anæsthetics</i>		<i>Fillings</i>	<i>Scalings or scaling and gum treatment</i>	<i>Silver Nitrate treatment</i>	<i>Dressings</i>	<i>Radiographs</i>	<i>Dentures provided</i>	
		<i>Local</i>	<i>Gen- eral</i>						<i>Com- plete</i>	<i>Par- tial</i>
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	299	—	63	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Children under 5	423	—	215	6	—	1	—	—	—	—

HOUSING

In spite of the tremendous progress which has been made in recent years, the housing situation in West Bromwich is still a major problem in so far as health is concerned. It is distressing to report that a large proportion of the population still exist in conditions which are far from satisfactory, and never a day goes by without cases which give rise for grave concern being brought to the notice of this department. If and when the problem of housing is solved, then it is fairly certain that many other problems will be solved also.

It is with great pleasure that I record the help and co-operation of the Housing Committee, the Housing Department and, in particular, the Housing Manager, especially in the re-housing of tuberculous cases. During the year 245 new houses were occupied in West Bromwich.

MISCELLANEOUS HEALTH MATTERS

It was not found necessary to make use of the provisions of section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, during the year.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND HYGIENE

Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the year ended 31st December, 1951

To the Chairman and Members of the Hygiene and Cleansing Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report on the work of the Sanitary Department for the year 1951.

This report indicates the comprehensive nature of the duties carried out by Sanitary Inspectors, and I would particularly draw your attention to the work carried out in connection with the inspection of food and food premises. It was felt that the most effective way of improving food premises and the standard of hygiene in those premises was by the enforcement of the Food and Drugs Act, and Byelaws relating to the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food, augmented by personal talks on food hygiene to food handlers. This policy has been carried out with satisfactory results.

In the field of general sanitation, the additional powers contained in the West Bromwich Corporation Act, 1949, have been helpful in dealing more efficiently with the many problems which arise.

Housing still presents one of the most urgent problems of the day. The number of houses dealt with by Demolition Orders as urgent cases is very small when the large number of unfit houses in the Borough is considered. This problem can only be satisfactorily tackled by large-scale clearance. Progress was, however, made in dealing with houses in the Cophall Street Area.

The problem of Atmospheric Pollution is one to which there is no easy solution. Smoke knows no boundary, and where there is a group of industrial towns situated so closely together as in the Black Country, the problem is one of a collective character. This problem has continued to receive much attention, and considerable work has been carried out during the year.

The cleansing services have again been affected by labour problems. It will be noticed that the output of refuse per thousand of the

population remains high in spite of fuel shortage and rationing. The increase in the prices received for waste and dormant materials recovered from house refuse is reflected in the greatly increased income received.

The year has been a strenuous one, and I have pleasure in recording the loyal and continuous co-operation of all the members of the staff in carrying out the onerous and ever-increasing duties and responsibilities of the Department.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hygiene and Cleansing Committee my sincere thanks are due for their courtesy and support during the year, and to the Town Clerk, the Medical Officer of Health and other chief officers, I am indebted for their help and advice.

W. W. FOAKES,

Chief Sanitary Inspector,
and
Cleansing Superintendent.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH

Inspections

The total number of inspections made during the year was 16,647. This total represents an increase in the number of inspections carried out during the previous year. It will be noticed that the Table given below includes inspections of hairdressers and barbers premises.

Special Housing Inspections	...	...	301
Houses inspected under Public Health Act, Housing Acts, etc.	...	...	1,129
Miscellaneous Inspections	...	...	5,257
Re-inspections	...	...	4,123
Theatres, Cinemas, etc.	...	...	16
Lodging Houses and Houses-let-in lodgings	...	...	28
Factories	...	...	125
Shops and Food Premises	...	...	2,807
Bakehouses	...	...	32
Dairies	...	...	56
Food and Drugs Act visits	...	...	607
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	202
Slaughterhouses (including Cottagers' Pigs)	...	...	1,024
Fumigation	...	...	776
Smoke Observations	...	...	98
Barbers' and Hairdressers' Premises	...	...	66
			<hr/> 16,647 <hr/>

Complaints Received

A total of 1,179 complaints were received and recorded during the year at the Sanitary Department, which was considerably more

than the number recorded during the previous year, the number for the previous year being 612. All complaints were visited and inspected. The number of complaints recorded does not include those made to the Inspectors on the District.

Notices Served

The number of notices served under the Public Health Act, 1936, during the year was 1,059. This number was similar to that recorded for the previous year. Of this number 843 were informal notices and 216 were Statutory Notices. The total number of houses concerned was 1,490. A larger number of Statutory Notices was served during 1951 than during the previous year.

Improvements Effected under the Public Health and Housing Acts

As a result of the service of notices, 1,832 improvements were effected. It has not been possible to serve notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, for repairs, owing to the recent decisions which have been made in the various Courts, and the service of notices has been confined to the Public Health Act, 1936.

Considerable work has, however, been carried out in connection with the demolition of Unfit Houses and 44 Demolition Orders and 1 Closing Order were made during the year, and 92 unfit houses were demolished.

Whilst the Demolition Clauses in the Housing Act, 1936, enable the dangerous type of unfit house to be dealt with, the real solution to the slum problem is the clearance of the unfit houses by Clearance Areas. Only by this means can progress be made in the elimination of these worn-out houses. It is hoped that an improvement in the provision of new dwellings may enable greater and more rapid progress to be made in dealing with unfit houses.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED IN PURSUANCE OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND NOTICES SERVED

Interiors of Houses

Repairs to plastering, brickwork or	woodwork	
carried out	... ..	297
Ventilation provided or improved	... ..	131
Flooded cellars drained or filled in	... ..	15

Exteriors of Houses

Damp external walls—brickwork repaired or covered with impervious material or damp-proof courses inserted	...	...	...	71
Defective roofs made weathertight	...	...	...	266
Spouting renewed, repaired or cleansed	...	...	...	121
Chimneys repaired or repointed	...	...	...	83

Yards, Outbuildings and Washing Accommodation

Outbuildings cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	231
Earthenware sinks provided or existing sinks repaired	...	...	...	9
Dangerous wells or cisterns abolished or suitable covers provided	...	...	...	6
Surface paving provided, renewed or repaired	7

Water Supply

Insufficient water supply—remedied	17
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Drainage

Defective drainage relayed or repaired	19
Choked drainage opened and cleansed	134

Sanitary Conveniences

Additional water closets provided	...	...	...	4
Water closets repaired	...	...	...	33
Defective connections repaired or pedestals renewed	...	...	...	64
Defective flushing apparatus repaired or insufficient water supply remedied	...	...	...	31
Defective dustbins renewed	...	...	...	8
Ashpits converted	2

Offensive Accumulations

Accumulations removed	7
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Factories and Workshops

Additional water closet accommodation provided or existing accommodation improved	27
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Food Premises

Cleansed, repaired or improved	245
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Miscellaneous	4
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1,832

Court Proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1936

It has only been necessary to issue summonses in two instances and in each case the summons was withdrawn on completion of the work and payment of costs. The following Table gives details :—

<i>Situation of Premises</i>	<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Acts or Byelaws under which proceedings were instituted</i>	<i>Result</i>
Nos. 34, 36 and 40, Lloyd Street	Dilapidated houses	Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93	Work completed Costs 4/6
Nos. 182 and 184, Greets Green Road	do.	do.	Work completed Costs 4/6

Common Lodging Houses and Houses-let-in-Lodgings

The Common Lodging House in Spon Lane, which had caused considerable trouble during the winter, owing to the inability of the Keeper to obtain adequate labour, deteriorated rapidly, and was reported on adversely owing to its insanitary condition and lack of adequate attention. The Hygiene and Cleansing Committee visited the premises and decided to refuse registration as a Common Lodging House. The owners subsequently ejected the occupants and closed the premises.

The number of houses-let-in-lodgings is now five. These houses have been regularly inspected during the year and it has not been necessary to take any action under the Byelaws.

Theatres and Cinemas

There are eight cinemas and one theatre in the Borough and these have been kept in a satisfactory condition.

Factories Act, 1937

125 inspections were made of factories under the Factories Act, 1937, and 28 notices were served. The following Table gives details of the action taken in these cases.

	FOUND	REMEDIED
Insufficient sanitary accommodation ...	3	3
Defective sanitary accommodation ...	25	20

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Considerable work has been carried out in connection with the above Act, and routine inspections have been made of the tips in the Borough to deal with any infestations which may have occurred. The usual routine inspections were made of 10% of the sewers in the Borough. Manholes were test baited, and of the 153 manholes so treated in only two instances were there complete 'takes.' These 'takes' occurred as in former years at points where buildings had been demolished and lengths of old drains had not been sealed off.

During the year a total of 205 complaints were recorded of infestations of rats and a total of 3,067 baits were laid at premises comprising 43 business premises and 162 private dwellings.

It has been found that rat infestations are constantly occurring near the river on the borders of the town. These infestations are most difficult to control owing to the close proximity of the river.

Hairdressers and Barbers

During the year, 61 applications were received for registration under the West Bromwich Corporation Act in connection with the carrying on of the trade or business as Hairdresser or Barber. All these premises were inspected before registration and a copy of the Byelaws, which came into operation on 1st January, was handed to each applicant.

It has not been necessary to take any action under the Byelaws in connection with any of these premises.

A total of 66 inspections were made of premises carrying on the trade of Hairdresser and Barber.

Disinfection

Sixty-eight premises were disinfected during the year following cases of infectious disease. The arrangements whereby the bedding of an infectious disease case is now disinfected at Black Lake has caused considerable difficulty in fitting in with other work as this disinfection is not constant but varies considerably. The total number of cases from which bedding was disinfected was 64.

Disinfestation

The disinfestation of furniture by H.C.N. has again been carried out by this Department in cases of bug infestation at houses where the tenants are being transferred to a new Corporation house. Owing to the small number of cases which have been coming through (40) it has been very difficult to maintain this service owing to the shortage of labour and the intermittent character of the work.

In addition to the disinfestation of furniture 56 houses were also disinfected by means of insecticide sprays or smoke generators containing D.D.T.

During the year the treatment of infestations of cockroaches in houses on Corporation Estates was continued. A total of 270 houses was treated by means of D.D.T. Smoke Generators which were placed in ground floor rooms and in the floor cavity after removal of part of the floor.

The houses were sealed for at least four hours and at the end of this period the under floor cavity was sprayed with Gammexane powder. Some difficulty was experienced in the carrying out of this treatment owing to the fact that the majority of the houses on the estates treated are in blocks of four or six, and it was necessary for the whole of the block to be treated irrespective of whether there was evidence of infestation in all the houses.

Of the houses treated 37 had very bad infestations which, in some cases, had extended to the bedrooms; less serious infestation occurred in 55 cases; and slight infestation occurred in 99 cases. In the remaining 79 houses no evidence of cockroach infestation was discovered during the fumigation.

Owing to the large number of houses dealt with it was not possible to re-visit all those treated, but in cases which were followed up treatment appears to have been effective.

Smoke Abatement and Atmospheric Pollution

During the year a total of 98 observations of smoke emission from factory chimneys were made. In addition investigation has been carried out with regard to grit emission, and also complaints of effluvia arising from works. There was a recurrence of the offensive smell from a neighbouring Borough and this was again reported to H.M. Alkali Works Inspector and the Local Authority concerned.

Complaints were also dealt with concerning :

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Nuisance</i>	<i>Result</i>
Glass Works ...	Noise from Com- pressor.	Nuisance abated by erection of baffle walls to enclose com- pressor.
Wire Works ...	Fumes from acid pickling vats.	Abated by use of inhibitor. Vats screened from gardens of Council Houses.
Screw Cap Manufacturers	Smells emitted from enamelling ovens.	At end of year investigations were being carried out as to use of inhibitors by paint manufacturers.
Metal Recovery Plant	Smoke nuisance due to burning of oily swarf in electric furnaces.	Abated by installation of centrifugal plant for re- moving oil before swarf deposited into furnace.
Iron Foundry ...	Nuisance from grit and smoke from cupolas.	Requested provision of grit arresters — ordered but not erected at end of year.
Chemical Works ...	Many observations made during year re complaints of emission of sulphur and acid fumes.	Close liaison was maintained with Alkali Works Inspector and minor defects such as leaking supply pipes repaired.
Rag Flock Works ...	Emission of Dust.	Abated by installation of cyclones.
Tool Manufacturers	Grit nuisance.	Flues cleaned out.
Bottling Plant ...	Smoke nuisance from vertical boiler.	Instructions given for improved firing.
Laundry	Smoke nuisance.	Fuel supply improved.
Iron Foundry ...	Emission of sparks and grit due to failure of spark & dust arrester.	Improvements pending.
Drop Forgers ...	Smoke nuisance.	Chimney height extended — improvement in stoking and boiler administration.
Welding Firm ...	Noise nuisance.	Premises more enclosed — improvement.
Wire Works ...	Noise nuisance.	Satisfactory silencer fitted to Diesel engine.
Rolling Mills ...	Smoke nuisance.	New boilers fitted — improve- ment.
Nut and Bolt Manufacturers ...	Smoke nuisance.	Improved stoking.
Garage	Smoke nuisance.	Discontinued burning oily rags which caused smoke.
Wholesale Merchants	Smoke and dust from incinerator.	Smoke reduced after advice — grids fixed.
Timber Mills ...	Complaint that smoke from resinous saw- dust was not being bypassed.	Renewed instructions for this to be done.
Iron Foundry ...	Dust from cupola.	Spark arrester ordered — long delivery.
Iron Foundry ...	Dust from cupola.	Spark arrester ordered — long delivery.
Iron Foundry ...	Grit emission.	Filters renewed and reseated.

Atmospheric Gauges

The recording of atmospheric pollution in co-operation with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research was continued during the year. Four deposit gauges for collecting deposited matter, and eight lead peroxide gauges for determining the amount of sulphur trioxide present in the atmosphere are in use.

The following table gives the monthly recordings of the deposit gauges showing deposited matter in tons per square mile :

Month	Public Baths	Geo. Salter School	M.E.B.	Isolation Hospital
January	23.78	23.73	25.48	20.17
February	22.1	22.34	26.27	18.3
March	27.61	25.4	28.48	20.34
April	19.52	21.86	23.29	18.16
May	18.67	19.66	16.13	11.33
June	18.38	21.35	21.68	15.83
July	14.68	17.67	18.00	15.05
August	17.01	20.3	23.85	14.94
September	19.75	19.32	20.01	13.78
October	19.08	23.47	18.2	12.22
November	22.95	19.09	28.07	16.98
December	21.21	15.89	22.82	16.7
Total deposit p.a.	244.74	250.08	272.28	193.80
MONTHLY AVERAGES				
1949	21.00	20.09	24.8	16.37
1950	19.93	20.23	23.83	15.36
1951	20.39	20.84	22.69	16.15

The deposit gauges have been in operation for three years on their present sites, and the average readings for the whole Borough, in tons per square mile, are :—

1949 ... 20.56 1950 ... 19.8 1951 ... 20.01

The heaviest deposit continues to occur at the M.E.B. Station, although it will be noticed that this is the only station which has given progressively lower averages for the past three years.

Whilst the average for the present year is slightly higher than that for 1950 this does not indicate any untoward increase in the general level of pollution in the Borough since the weather plays an important part in the deposit of suspended matter from the atmosphere.

The fact that the averages for the past two years are below that for 1949 may possibly be a favourable sign, but it is too early to draw any conclusions as to trends in pollution from the figures obtained so far. It must be remembered that smoke knows no boundaries, and that the number of dwelling-houses is constantly increasing.

Lead Peroxide Gauges—Record of Sulphur Pollution

The weight of Sulphur Trioxide (SO₃) collected in milligrams per 100 square centimetres per day is shown in the following table :—

Month	Kenrick Park	Public Baths	G. Salter Schools	M.E.B.	Harvills Hawthorn	Isolation Hospital	Ray Hall	Red House Park
January ...	3.71	2.48	1.94	3.02	3.19	3.13	2.48	1.86
February ...	3.82	2.24	2.44	2.83	1.76	3.15	2.14	1.48
March ...	2.82	1.92	1.92	2.4	1.67	2.28	1.73	1.25
April ...	2.6	1.65	1.95	1.77	1.67	1.83	1.34	1.19
May ...	1.36	1.15	1.41	1.17	1.23	1.03	.78	.82
June ...	1.64	.87	1.17	1.42	1.25	1.09	.94	.94
July ...	1.12	.82	1.1	1.39	1.04	.91	.66	.48
August ...	1.48	1.0	1.05	1.25	1.66	1.38	.9	.61
September ...	1.6	1.28	1.66	1.61	1.45	1.63	.95	.68
October ...	2.77	2.42	2.28	2.62	1.69	2.08	1.77	1.9
November ...	3.21	1.99	2.12	2.37	2.13	2.72	1.96	1.29
December ...	3.48	1.69	2.58	2.17	1.22	1.99	1.79	1.29
MONTHLY AVERAGES								
1949 ...	2.51	1.54	1.82	2.1	2.41	1.87	1.49	1.2
1950 ...	2.39	1.56	1.86	2.12	2.16	2.09	1.52	1.22
1951 ...	2.46	1.62	1.8	1.83	1.66	1.93	1.45	1.14

The average for the year for the whole of the town, expressed in milligrams per 100 square centimetres per day was :—

1949 ... 1.84 1950 ... 1.86 1951 ... 1.73

The following table gives the amount of Sulphur Trioxide in the atmosphere around a works manufacturing dilute sulphuric acid. This is the first recording for a whole year and compares very favourably with the average for the whole of the Borough.

Month	Control	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3
January ...	2.38	2.52	3.19	1.73
February ...	1.97	2.34	2.02	2.77
March ...	1.75	1.91	1.44	1.18
April ...	1.5	1.67	1.47	1.23
May ...	.93	1.33	1.27	.75
June ...	.94	1.37		.81
July ...	.68	.95	.8	.62
August ...	.61	.93		.55
September ...	1.13	1.21	1.21	1.08
October ...	2.14	1.55	1.8	2.1
November ...	1.92	2.17	1.86	1.46
December ...	1.52	2.31	.24	2.92
MONTHLY AVERAGES	1.45	1.69	1.53	1.43

The average for the whole of the Borough during 1951, was 1.73.

Emission of Zinc Oxide

Owing to complaints of the emission of a white dust from a factory, three deposit gauges consisting of glass sweet jars with 10" glass funnels were placed in positions on the leeward side of the works. It was impossible to obtain delivery of the standard gauges and the improvised gauges have been satisfactory. Some interference has, however, been experienced from children.

The following table gives the results obtained during four months.

The first column in each month gives the Zinc Content of the sample in grams and the second column gives the calculated deposit per acre in lbs.

Station	September (10 days)		October		November		December	
	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
One	.0045	.79	.015	2.6	.0485	8.5	.0236	4.15
Two	.036	6.3	.06	10.5	.0427	7.5	.0233	4.09
Three	.0086	1.5	.0336	5.9	.0415	7.29	.1153	20.26

Water Supplies

The public water supply is derived from the South Staffs. Waterworks Company and the City of Birmingham Water Department. The water received is treated and was satisfactory both in quantity and quality during the year. Bacteriological examination was made of 22 samples of water, the results being as under:—

	Number	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
From wells and springs ...	2	1	1
From S. S. Waterworks Co.	11	11	—
From City of Birmingham Supply ...	9	9	—

The unsatisfactory sample was taken from a deep well. After cleansing and chlorination of the well a subsequent sample was satisfactory.

Ten samples of water were taken from the Public Baths all of which were satisfactory.

Twenty-two samples of water were taken for chemical examination and with the exception of a sample of well water all were satisfactory. Samples obtained from the City of Birmingham Supply were examined for plumbo-solvency and lead dissolved after 48 hours varied between .025 and .13 parts per 100,000.

Details of the results of the analysis of the last sample taken are as follows: results are expressed in parts per 100,000:—

Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	0
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.004
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	0.9
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites	...	...	...	Minute trace
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80 deg. F. in 4 hours	...	...	...	0.216
Total Solids dried at 100 deg. C	...	...	...	6
Nitrite	...	...	...	Absent
Appearance — Bright, few small particles.				
Plumbo Solvency	...	...	...	0.05

Number of dwellinghouses and population supplied with water from the mains is as under:—

	Houses	Population	Percentage
(a) Direct to houses	20,685	78,278	89.76
(b) Houses sharing standpipes	741	2,801	3.21
(c) Houses sharing common taps	1,622	6,131	7.03

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS

Meat Inspection

The three slaughterhouses in the Borough were engaged full time during the year, and a total of 14,569 pigs were slaughtered. All the carcasses were inspected before removal, and a total of 774 visits were paid to these slaughterhouses for this purpose. As in past years a considerable number of inspections had to be made outside office hours and on Sundays owing to the irregular delivery of pigs.

The following table gives particulars of the incidence of disease found among carcasses slaughtered.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle exclu- ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—	—	14,569
Number inspected	—	—	—	—	14,569
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS:					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	19
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	489
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	3.49
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	20
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	409
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuber- culosis	—	—	—	—	2.94

Cottagers' Pigs

During the year 250 notifications were received of the intended slaughter of cottagers' pigs. The number of pigs concerned was 286, and in each case the carcase was inspected.

Inspection of Shops

A total of 345 shops were inspected during the year. The businesses carried on were as follows :—

Grocer	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Butcher	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Fishmonger	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Greengrocer	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Fish Fryer	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Baker and Confectioner	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Sweet Confectioner	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cafés	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Outdoor Beer Licence	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
General Dealer (Huckster)	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Food preparation premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Grocer and Greengrocer	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Greengrocer and Fishmonger	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Grocer and Confectioner	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Greengrocer and Confectioner	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Greengrocer and Sweet Confectioner	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

The number of premises found to be unsatisfactory and not complying with the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 was 184.

The defects found, and for which notices were served, were as follows :—

Re-decoration and/or cleansing required	...	...	...	...	...	58
Repairs to walls, floors, etc., required	...	...	...	...	...	19
Improvement of Ventilation required	...	...	...	...	...	1
Provision of hot water supply required	...	...	...	...	...	156
Provision of cold water supply required	...	...	...	...	...	11
Provision of washing facilities required	...	...	...	...	...	16
Provision of sanitary accommodation required	...	...	...	...	...	2
Repairs or cleansing of sanitary accommodation required	...	...	...	...	...	4
Improvement of food storage arrangements required	...	...	...	...	...	6

As the result of the notices served the following improvements were carried out during the year :—

Premises re-decorated or cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	39
Repairs carried out	...	...	...	...	...	11
Supply of hot water provided	...	...	...	...	...	86

Supply of cold water provided	...	...	...	8
Washing facilities provided (sink or lavatory basin with hot and cold water and connected to drainage system)	...	...	...	12
Washing facilities improved	...	...	...	12
Sanitary accommodation provided	...	...	...	1
Sanitary accommodation cleansed and/or repaired	...	...	...	4
Waste water closets converted	...	...	...	1
New preparation room provided (fish fryer)	...	...	...	1
Business discontinued :—				
General dealer	...	...	...	3
Ice Cream manufacturer	...	...	...	1
Potato crisp manufacturer	...	...	...	1
Baker and Confectioner	...	...	...	1
Greengrocer	...	...	...	1
Sale of rationed goods discontinued (general dealer)	...	...	...	1
Sale of root crops discontinued (general dealer)	...	...	...	1
Improved food storage arrangements (café)	...	...	...	1
New refrigerator installed (butcher)	...	...	...	1
				186

There are twenty licensed houses serving meals, 74 serving snacks, and in addition there are 54 restaurants and eating-houses in the Borough. All these premises were inspected and improvements were effected in eight cases.

Licensed Premises

During the year a survey of licensed premises in the Borough was completed. In carrying out this survey, attention was directed to facilities for washing receptacles, beer-raising apparatus, catering on premises, and general sanitary conditions and accommodation. A total of 195 licensed premises were inspected, but this number does not include Clubs where intoxicants are sold.

Facilities for the washing of Receptacles

In 64 instances geysers were provided; in 112 cases boilers (usually run in conjunction with the kitchen range supplied hot water laid on to the Bar); and in 20 instances immersion heaters were also installed to augment the supply. In only 32 instances were no facilities provided for the supply of hot water. In all cases where no hot water was provided, the Brewery Company was notified, and in 21 instances geysers or other means of providing hot water were installed. At the end of the year only 3 cases remained where no provision was made for hot water.

Beer Raising Apparatus

As a result of this survey, it was found that in only 3 instances were lead pipes (tin lined) in use at the time of inspection. In the majority of cases, plastic or stainless steel pipes were in use. In the 3 instances where lead pipes were in use orders were given by the Brewery Company for the replacement of these pipes. In one case tin-lined rubber pipes were in use, and in this case the pipes were replaced by stainless steel.

Extent of Catering at Licensed Premises

As a result of this survey, it was found that of the 195 premises inspected, 10.26% had full catering licences; 37.95% sold only snacks and sandwiches, and 51.79% did no catering of any description.

Drainage

At the time of the inspection a total of 27 licensed premises or 13.84% were without adequate drainage to the Bar, but as a result of the survey 11 further premises have since been provided with adequate drainage. In the remaining cases structural alterations have caused delay, and in two instances difficulties were so insurmountable that pumps were installed to tanks in the cellars to pump waste water to the external drain.

Sanitary Accommodation

In only 15 cases or 7.69% was there no sanitary accommodation for the sole use of the licensee. Since the survey in 8 instances this sanitary accommodation has been provided. The sanitary accommodation for the public was generally in good order and satisfactory.

Cleanliness of the premises was satisfactory.

This survey was carried out during licensing hours and at all times co-operation of the Brewery Company and the licensee were readily given. A total of 59 notices were sent to Brewery Companies as a result of this survey.

Hawkers' Vehicles

Three vehicles were registered under the West Bromwich Corporation Act, 1949, for the sale of food, and each vehicle was inspected and approved.

Other Food Vehicles

Inspections were made of other food delivery vehicles from time to time.

Improvements to Food Premises

Business	Improvements
Toffee Manufacturers	New floor laid; additional light and ventilation provided; premises painted internally, intervening ventilated space to water closet; hot water laid on; special ducts to convey products for toffee boiler.
Pickle Factory ...	New canteen provided; hot and cold water and sink provided; re-decorated.
Café	Re-decorated; new sink; drainage and hot and cold water laid on.
Bacon Curers ...	Bacon curing tanks installed with glazed bricks; additional refrigeration provided; new pickle vats installed.
Food Manufacturers	Old boiling vats taken out; gas-fired ones installed with extractor ventilation duct and canopy; new ceiling provided; walls tiled to height of six feet; geyser installed.
Works Canteen ...	Ventilation to canteen improved; extractor fan installed; geyser provided; preparation and dining room re-decorated.
Grocer	Additional storage accommodation; new sanitary annexe with separate washing facilities and separate sanitary accommodation.
Butchers	New floor laid; new counter provided; walls tiled; hot and cold water laid on and additional refrigerator provided.
Fish shop	Premises re-decorated and replastered; hot and cold water laid on; new sink and new range provided.
Shellfish preparation (two shops)	Premises adapted for use; cleansed and re-decorated; hot and cold water laid on; sink and drainage provided; refrigerator installed.
Bakehouse	New bakehouse built, use of old bakehouse discontinued; now used as scullery in connection with dwellinghouse.
Ice cream manufacturer	Discontinued hot mix on coming into operation of provisions regarding thermometers.

CLASSIFICATION AND WEIGHTS OF FOOD CONDEMNED

The Inspection of food, other than meat, occupies a considerable part of the Inspectors' time, as the following table giving the classification of foods condemned will show :—

				Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Pork	...	...	...	5	1	0	11				
Bacon	...	...	...		1	2	3				
Sausage	...	...	...			2	27				
Beef	...	...	...			2	8				
Mutton	...	...	...			1	8				
Chitterlings	...	...	...		7	2	0				
Rabbits	...	...	...			1	12				
Poultry	...	...	...			3	1				
<hr/>								5	12	3	14
Cheese	...	...	...			3	3				
Miscellaneous Foods	...	...	...		1	3	6				
<hr/>									2	2	9
CANNED & BOTTLED GOODS :											
Vegetables :											
Tomatoes	...	...	...		17	2	7				
Peas	...	...	...		3	3	16				
Beans	...	...	...		1	1	2				
<hr/>								1	2	2	25
Fruit :											
Apples	...	...	...		4	1	10				
Apricots	...	...	...			3	23				
Cherries	...	...	...			2	15				
Damsons & Greengages	...	...	...			3	2				
Grapes	...	...	...			1	1				
Oranges	...	...	...			3	4				
Peaches	...	...	...			1	12				
Pears	...	...	...		1	0	10				
Plums	...	...	...	1	2	3	25				
Strawberries	...	...	...			2	24				
Miscellaneous fruits	...	...	...			2	15				
<hr/>								1	13	2	1
Jam	...	...	...			1	14				
Milk	...	...	...		4	2	13				
Fish	...	...	...		3	0	14				
Meat	...	...	...		5	3	0				
Soup	...	...	...			2	0				
Cooked Ham (283 tins)	...	...	...	1	11	1	14				
<hr/>								2	5	2	27
<hr/>								10	17	1	20
<hr/>								<hr/>			

Ice Cream

There are 25 premises registered for the sale and manufacture of Ice Cream. This figure is the same as for last year, as no applications were received for the manufacture of Ice Cream.

During the year, 43 applications were received for the sale only of pre-packed Ice Cream, and the number of such premises now on the register is 151.

Regular inspections were made of all premises selling Ice Cream, but the usual business period for the sale of this commodity is at the weekend.

Fifty samples of Ice Cream were taken for bacteriological examination and were submitted to the Public Health Laboratories, Birmingham, the results of the analyses of these samples being as under :—

Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
39	4	3	4

The four samples in Grade IV were manufactured outside the Borough. Appropriate action was taken with regard to all samples below Grade II.

Artificial Cream

There is only one premise registered for the manufacture of artificial cream. The plant has been regularly inspected throughout the year.

Milk Supply

Milk (Special Designations) Act, 1949

So far, this Borough has not been designated as a “specified area” within the meaning of the above Act, but it is satisfactory to report that practically 99% of all milk supplied in the town is heat-treated.

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

The number of dealers registered under the above Regulations during the year was 18.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949

During the year, 19 dealers were registered under these Regulations, as was also one Sterilising Plant for the manufacture of sterilised milk. One other Pasteurising and Sterilising Plant discontinued operations during the year on being taken over by a large Dairy company from a neighbouring town for use as a Depot only.

All samples taken from the one Sterilising plant during the year were satisfactory.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

The arrangements whereby samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Birmingham, are satisfactory, and I would like to express my appreciation of the assistance given by the Staff of the Laboratory. This Laboratory is more easily accessible than the one at Stafford and no difficulty was experienced during the year.

From the table of samples below it will be seen that the percentage of samples failing the methylene blue test was 2.85%. This result compared very favourably with that of the previous year when 3.6% of the samples failed the requisite test.

Class of Milk	Number of samples submitted for the Methylene Blue Test	Number of Samples	
		Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	25	25	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) ...	3	3	—
Undesignated	7	6	1
Totals	35	34	1

Heat Treated Milk

96 samples of heat treated milk were taken during the year, and all samples satisfactorily passed the requisite tests.

Biological Examination of Milk

11 samples of milk were taken and submitted for biological examination. These samples were all taken from farms situated in

the Borough, and two of the samples were 'positive'. In both of these cases the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was notified, and after tests by the Ministry's Veterinary Inspector, the affected animals were subsequently slaughtered.

The milk supplied by the farms where 'positive' results were obtained, was Pasteurised.

Chemical Examination

66 samples of milk were taken for chemical analysis during the year and it is interesting, in view of the alleged decline in the quality of milk, that the average fat content was 3.67, and solids-not-fat 8.65. The highest fat content was 5.1 and the lowest 3.0.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Adulteration of Food and Drugs

During the year, 279 samples of food and drugs comprising 66 formal and 213 informal samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis.

The quarterly details of the results of these samples are given in the following table :—

	<i>Samples Analysed</i>		<i>Satisfactory</i>		<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	
	<i>Milk</i>	<i>Other Foods</i>	<i>Milk</i>	<i>Other Foods</i>	<i>Milk</i>	<i>Other Foods</i>
1st Quarter ...	20	43	20	39	—	4
2nd Quarter ...	16	64	16	60	—	4
3rd Quarter ...	10	46	10	43	—	3
4th Quarter ...	20	60	20	59	—	1
Total ...	66	213	66	201	—	12

List of Adulterated or Unsatisfactory Samples of Food and Drugs

<i>Description of Article</i>	<i>Nature or Extent of Adulteration</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
French Cherries Sample No. 819 (Informal)	Unsaleable	Withdrawn from sale.
French Cherries Sample No. 820 (Informal)	do.	do.
Glycerine & Honey with Lemon Flavour Sample No. 815 (Informal)	Deficient of 43% Citric Acid	Old Stock — withdrawn from sale.
Kilkof Sample No. 801 (Informal)	Contained excess of 250% of Oxymel of Scillae	See formal sample below No. 863.
Ice Cream Sample No. 870 (Informal)	Deficient of 24% fat	Vendor warned—subse- quent sample genuine.
Ice Cream Sample No. 915 (Informal)	Deficient of 30% fat	Vendor warned—subse- quent samples genuine.
Jelly Sample No. 879 (Informal)	Deficient of 10% sugar	Manufacturer warned— stock withdrawn from sale.
Kilkof Sample No. 863 (Formal)	Contained excess of 250% Oxymel Scillae	Manufacturers warned— (Kilkof stated to be not amenable to standard methods of analysis from point of view of calcula- tion of percentage of individual ingredients by means of large factors from rather indefinite “total volatile acidity” determinations).
Bread Sample No. 938 (Informal)	Contained stub of Cigarette	Baker warned.
Sausage Pork Sample No. 944 (Informal)	Deficient of 15.6% meat	See formal sample No. 953 below.
Sausage Pork Sample No. 953 (Formal)	Deficient of 6% meat	Manufacturer warned.
Artificial Vinegar Sample No. 1,017	Unsatisfactory label	Manufacturer warned— all stocks withdrawn and re-labelled.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926

Eleven samples of fertilisers were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis. Five samples were satisfactory and complied with the "statutory statement," and appropriate action was taken in each case in respect of the six unsatisfactory samples.

Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933, and Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941

There are 55 names entered on the List of Persons entitled to sell poisonous substances listed in Part II of the Poisons List. In each case, the premises were visited before the entry of the name on the List.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

This Act came into operation on 1st November, 1951, and it gives greater control over the manufacture and sale of Rag Flock and other filling materials.

One application was received to manufacture Rag Flock, and seven premises were registered in connection with the storage of filling materials.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Public Conveniences

During the year, considerable progress was made regarding the provision of Public Conveniences at Stone Cross and Hill Top. Plans were submitted and approved, and at the end of the year work had commenced on the erection of these conveniences.

A site at Carters Green was obtained for the erection of a Public Convenience in that area, and plans for a convenience including washing facilities were considered. In view of the great demand of this locality, it is important that a convenience should be erected in this area.

At the end of the year there were 3 attended and 12 unattended Public Conveniences in the Borough.

I have again to report that considerable damage has been done to the unattended conveniences, and in two instances lead piping was stolen.

Refuse Collection

Labour difficulties were again encountered during the year owing to the full employment which exists in the district. Despite this,

however, endeavour was made to keep the collection as near as possible to seven days, and very few complaints were received during the year.

Three new vehicles were delivered during June and July, replacing four which had become obsolete and beyond economical running and repair. The new vehicles were of the latest design being 'W' Type Fore and Aft Tipping Freighters with a capacity of 16-18 cubic yards. Seating capacity is provided in each vehicle for a driver and six loaders. In view of the long distance to the tip it is important that larger vehicles should be employed, and these three new vehicles during the past six months working have proved to be very efficient and suitable for the work undertaken.

I would once again like to thank the Transport Manager (Mr. A. Witcomb Smith) and his staff for their help and co-operation in the maintenance of the vehicles during the past year.

In accordance with the instructions of the Council, dustbins were supplied as a charge on the Rate Fund from 1st April, and during the nine months ending 31st December, 1951, a total of 1,514 dustbins were issued—the cost of these being equivalent to the product of a penny rate.

Refuse Disposal

The tip at Heath Lane has again been used for depositing all the house refuse, and approximately 26,000 tons of refuse were deposited during the year. Precautions have been taken with regard to rat and other vermin infestations, and the tip has been liberally sprayed and baited during the year. The Calfdozer was used in order to maintain the tip in good condition and this machine has been satisfactory from the point of view of cost and efficiency in its work. Consolidation of the tip has been most effective.

All trade refuse was destroyed in the incinerators at the Black Lake Works.

As in former years, it has been difficult to recruit labour for work at Black Lake, and owing to the shortage of men, overtime had to be worked in order to keep the work up to date.

Salvage

It will be noticed from the following table that the income from Salvage was higher than in any former year. This was accounted for by the high prices which were received for this raw material. Separation of all marketable waste and dormant materials was carried out at both Black Lake Works and the Heath Lane Tip.

Cesspools

There are 60 cesspools within the Borough and these are emptied regularly by an Eagle 500-gallon Cesspool Emptier.

House Refuse Collection and Disposal

Total number of premises from which refuse was collected	...	...	...	...	23,683
Total number of loads of refuse collected	...				14,795
Total tonnage of refuse collected	...	...			26,917
Total tonnage of nightsoil collected	...	...			86
Total tonnage collected from cesspools	...				2,058
Gross cost of collection	...	...	...		£39,185
Gross cost of disposal	...	...	...		£7,566
Gross cost per ton of collection	...	...	...	£1 9s	1.38d
Gross cost per ton of disposal	...	...	...	5s	7.46d
Gross cost of collection and disposal per ton	...	...	...	£1 14s	8.84d
Net cost of collection and disposal per ton	...	...	...	£1 8s	8.56d
Net cost of collection and disposal per 1,000 population	...	...	...	£444 8s	3.31d
Net cost of collection and disposal from each premises per annum	...	...	...	£1 12s	7.61d

Output of Refuse per annum (excluding Cesspool Contents)

Output	1948	1949	1950	1951
Per 1,000 of population ...	271.08 tons	272.86 tons	300.77 tons	285.74 tons
Per house ...	20.46 cwts.	20.16 cwts.	21.99 cwts.	20.99 cwts.

Recovery of Waste and Dormant Materials

The total tonnage of waste materials salvaged during the year and income received was as follows:—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper							
(various grades)	366	13	2	0	5,675	10	0
Baled Ferrous Scrap ...	92	4	3	0	305	12	2
Black Scrap ...	10	3	3	0	35	2	9
Non-Ferrous Scrap ...		9	3	0	39	19	3
Textiles							
(Rags and Woollens)	13	9	3	22	390	3	0
Bottles and Jars ...	7	15	0	0	33	11	6
Bones ...		14	2	0	4	3	4
Kitchen Waste ...	533	12	0	0	1,540	6	0
Cullett ...	3	15	0	0	5	3	9
Rubber ...		3	2	0		17	6
	1,029	1	2	22	£8,030	9	3

The total of salvage collected and income received from 1941 to 1951 were as under :—

				Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
1941	...	...	...	983	13	3	0	3,298	13	10
1942	...	...	...	1,281	7	2	0	5,313	11	9
1943	...	...	...	1,733	3	2	0	5,616	3	10
1944	...	...	...	1,587	14	0	0	4,619	12	1
1945	...	...	...	1,307	2	0	0	3,807	2	1
1946	...	...	...	1,430	6	0	0	4,750	16	4
1947	...	...	...	1,415	13	2	0	4,596	15	1
1948	...	...	...	1,383	16	1	0	4,894	0	2
1949	...	...	...	1,139	11	2	0	4,622	15	6
1950	...	...	...	880	9	1	0	3,168	4	6
1951	...	...	...	1,029	1	2	22	8,030	9	3
				14,171	18	3	22	£52,718	4	5

